

Group IV (Claims 22-26) drawn to an implantable medical device having a coating,

Applicant hereby provisionally elects, with traverse, Group I (Claims 1-8) for prosecution on the merits in this application. It is respectfully submitted that in searching for the coatings for surgical articles of Group I, the Examiner would uncover sutures possessing such coatings (Group II), methods for suturing wounds with sutures possessing such coatings (Group III), and implantable medical devices possessing such coatings (Group IV). Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that there would be no hardship or undue burden examining the four groups of claims at once. Accordingly, withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination of all claims presented in this application are respectfully requested.

Should the restriction requirement be maintained and the withdrawn claims not rejoined, Applicants specifically reserve the right under 35 U.S.C. §121 to pursue non-elected subject matter by way of a divisional application.

In view of the foregoing, early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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